



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Corrections

Ref: Corrections, Budget Statement D, Budget Statement D 2022-2023 – Implementing recommendations of a new future for custodial services ACT Corrective Services Blueprint for Change, Output 2.1

In relation to: Implementing the AMC Smoke Free Project

1. During the Justice Health hearing, officials stated that JACS had formulated a detailed project plan to make the AMC smoke free within 12 months. Can the minister attach this plan to his response?
2. What lessons were learned from the recent smoking cessation program pilot that resulted in just one detainee reporting any decrease in tobacco consumption?
  - a. During the recent smoking cessation program pilot, detainees reported the main barriers to reducing their tobacco consumption were being bored, lack of programs, stress and exposure to second hand smoke. What is being done to address those barriers to smoking cessation?
    - i. Will more programs staff be hired and will there subsequently be more programs?
3. Has the position for the director of the AMC Smoke Free project been filled?
  - a. What experience do they have in order to fulfill this role i.e. experience working in a prison that has phased out smoking?
4. Is it the intention of the government to also ban AMC staff from smoking on AMC grounds?
  - a. If so, will staff be subject to the same timeline as detainees, or will they be expected to stop smoking on AMC grounds sooner?
  - b. If not, will there be a dedicated space for AMC staff to smoke away from the sight of detainees?
5. As of May 2021, ACT Corrective Services staff could obtain a \$100 reimbursement each year for smoking cessation programs as part of JACS' health and wellbeing program. Has there been any consideration to increase this entitlement for ACT Corrective Services staff for this year?
  - a. If so, what were the results of that consideration?
6. Will there be increased resourcing for addiction therapists during the phasing out of smoking?
7. Is there a hard date for when smoking will be totally banned on prison grounds?
  - a. If so, what is that date?

**Mick Gentleman MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. The approach to make the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) smoke free has been led by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. Formal consultation with staff, detainees and other interested stakeholders is ongoing. The project plan is being finalised and it will be informed by the above consultation.
2. One key challenge expressed by detainees during the trial – which was short term and limited to select accommodation units - was being aware of other people who were continuing to smoke. Transitioning the whole AMC to be a smoke free environment will address this challenge.
  - a. As above, transitioning the whole AMC to smoke free will address the main barrier to reducing smoking, which is being in the vicinity of other people who smoke. In addition to nicotine replacement therapies and counselling support, the transition process will include consideration of other programs, activities and supports to address the barrier of boredom.
    - i. Work has been progressed, and will continue as part of the transition to a smoke free AMC, on expanding programs available to detainees.
3. Recruitment for the Director of the Smoke Free project is underway.
  - a. n.a. as recruitment not finalised.
4. The intention is to make the entire AMC facility smoke free, in line with ACT Health facilities, which includes a ban on smoking for both staff and detainees.
  - a. Staff will be supported in the transition on the same timeline as detainees.
  - b. There will not be a dedicated space for AMC staff to smoke within the AMC facility.
5. Support for staff for smoking cessation programs will be reviewed in conjunction with broader wellbeing initiatives and in consultation with staff.
  - a. As above.
6. Therapeutic options will be available to support detainees for smoking cessation, however the exact supports will be settled after further consultation with detainees and Canberra Health Services.
7. At present, there is no “hard date” for when AMC will be totally smoke free. The final timeline, and a managed and phased approach to transition, will be developed in consultation with staff, detainees and stakeholders. The transition will occur over 12 months, or more if necessary.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

13/11/2022

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA